

**Final Meeting Notes
LCR MSCP Steering Committee October 28, 2015
McCarran Airport**

Attending

Perri Benemelis	Pat Barber	Vikki Dee Bradshaw	Linda Carbone
Chuck Cullom	Lesley Fitzpatrick	Gregg Garnett	Jess Gwinn
Christopher Harris	Sonja Kokos	Kurumi Kuroda	Bill Lamb
Kara Mathews	Terry Murphy	Jessica Neuwerth	Larry Purcell
Carolyn Ronning	Laura Simonek	Jon Sjoberg	Sarah Price
John Swett	Ruth Valencia	Laura Vecerina	

Attending Via Conference Call

Karen Donovan	Maureen George	Ross Haley	Mike Hewlin
John Holmstrom	Ned Hyduke	Vineetha Kartha	Wade Noble
Stevie Sharp	Dale Turner	Dave Vigil	Fred Worthley
Doyle Wilson			

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:30 a.m. by Chris Harris. There were self-introductions of all attending.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approve June 24, 2015 Meeting Notes

The June 24, 2015 meeting notes were approved. (Moved by Perri Benemelis, seconded by Bill Lamb and adopted by consensus.)

FISH AUGMENTATION PLAN

Chris Harris read Resolution 16-001 which noted that a Draft Native Fish Augmentation Plan 2015 – 2020 had been prepared, comments had been received from the Steering Committee at both the April 6th and May 4th Technical Work Group meetings, and that those comments had been incorporated into the final document. Chris asked for a motion to acknowledge that the Native Fish Augmentation Plan 2015 - 2020 was now complete. (Moved by Perri Benemelis seconded by Ruth Valencia and adopted by consensus).

WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

John Swett noted that Reclamation had received the letter from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) accepting the Final Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2016 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2014 Accomplishment Report. John reviewed the FY16 Funding schedule and noted that all first quarter contributions had been received. He noted that the Federal Government is on a continuing resolution until December 11, 2015.

PROCESS UPDATES

Completion of FLSU2: John Swett noted that Reclamation had received a concurrence letter from the USFWS acknowledging that conservation measure FLSU2 was complete. This conservation measure required the LCR MSCP to provide \$80,000 per year for 5 years to support flannemouth sucker research efforts in Reach 3 below Davis Dam.

Confirmation of the Conference Opinion for the Threatened Yellow-billed Cuckoo: John noted that Reclamation had received a letter from the USFWS which 1) confirmed that the portion of the March 5, 2005 biological and conference opinion constituted the conference opinion for the yellow-billed cuckoo when it was a candidate species and 2) confirmed that the conference opinion is now the biological opinion for the Western DPS of the yellow-billed cuckoo and that no further section 7 consultation is necessary for the listing of this species.

Northern Mexican Gartersnake: John reviewed the status of the northern Mexican gartersnake. It was listed in 2014, but was not a covered species of the Program. Reclamation received a letter from the USFWS on June 30th documenting the gartersnake at the Beal Lake Conservation Area. Reclamation sent a letter to the USFWS on July 9th requesting initiation of formal consultation for Reclamation's operation and maintenance activities at the conservation site. John said that Reclamation prepared a Biological Assessment for those actions and submitted it to the USFWS on October 26th. There was discussion on how the LCR MSCP program should handle discovery of the gartersnake for the LCR MSCP program. There was agreement that a Technical Work Group meeting should be held after the beginning of the year to talk over options in more detail.

Potential Listing Relict Leopard Frog: John noted that the relict leopard frog was petitioned for listing under the ESA with the USFWS. He noted that the LCR MSCP conservation measure for the Relict Leopard Frog was to provide \$10,000 per year for 10 years to support implementation of planned, but unfunded, conservation measures for the relict leopard frog so there will not be an impact on the program by the listing. John indicated that a memorandum had been sent to the USFWS this week requesting concurrence on the completion. He noted that the completion of RLFR1 is the 5th conservation measure completed by the program.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Status of Plant Ranch: John Swett noted that the Arizona Supreme Court had heard oral arguments in the legal proceedings between Mohave County and the Arizona Department of Water Resources on October 13th and that it was expected that an opinion would be rendered by the mid-November. He noted that Reclamation had conducted a site inspection in anticipation of closing on the property by December 15th. There was discussion on what to do if the Supreme Court ruled in Mohave County's favor. It was agreed that a meeting to discuss next steps would be scheduled if that occurred.

STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Laura Vecerina noted that a number of conferences were scheduled in the near future. She mentioned the Colorado River Water Users, scheduled for December 17-18 in Las Vegas where the LCR MSCP would have a booth, the Colorado River Aquatic Biologists meeting in Laughlin January 5-6, and the Colorado River Terrestrial and Riparian meeting, also in Laughlin, scheduled for January 27-29.

Laura noted that because of Department of Interior security concerns, updates to the LCR MSCP website had not been occurring. She indicated that she would send out an email with the upcoming meeting dates. She noted that the next Steering Committee meeting was scheduled for April 27, 2016, a Technical Work Group meeting would be scheduled in May, and that a Steering Committee Conference call would be scheduled for June 22nd. Laura also noted that because the website was not able to be updated that Reclamation had not been able to post completed reports. Chris Harris asked that a current list of completed reports be sent out.

SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 16-001 Native Fish Augmentation Plan 2015 – 2020 was acknowledged as final.

FAREWELL TO LESLEY FITZPATRICK

Chris Harris discussed all of the contributions that Lesley had made to the program, both in the planning and implementation phase. He noted that we wouldn't have gotten to where we are now without her involvement and thanked her for her service.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned 11:30 a.m.